

REVISED - 2/6/62

ARMSTRONG CIRCLE THEATRE

#117

"THE OFF BEAT GENERATION"

"TEEN AGE PAN CLUBS"  
(UNTITLED)

\*\*\*\*\*

WRITER: ALVIN BORETZ

DIRECTOR: PAUL BOGART

PRODUCER: ROBERT COSTELLO

EDITOR: BARBARA SCHULTZ

C A S T

BEN CLAYTON

ADA O'DOHERTY

DAVE TAYLOR

WILLIE CARLISLE

ELLEN HARPER

MRS. HARPER

LARRY

HARRIS

CARRIE

JENNIFER

NINA

RITA

STEVE

RONIS

MILLER'S VOICE

UNDER FIVE

MARTHA

KENNY

EXTRAS

PHOTOGRAPHER

DISC JOCKEY

ENGINEER

TEEN-AGERS

"TEEN AGE FAN CLUBS"FADE UP

(CU PORTABLE PHONOGRAPHS SPINNING  
A RECORD. WILLIE'S VOICE IS SING-  
ING A BALLAD. PULL BACK ENOUGH  
TO SHOW ELLEN AND SOME GIRL FRIENDS  
LYING ON THE FLOOR AND BED NEXT TO  
THE PLAYER .. LOST IN DREAMLAND)

COCHRAN:

Good evening everyone..this is  
Ron Cochran. Tonight .. the  
story of a battle for fifty  
million dollars. The amount  
of money spent by American  
teenagers on single phonograph  
records. In the mad scramble  
for this fortune there are still  
billions more in the "extras"  
bought each year by our youth.  
The competition for this seem-  
ingly inexhaustible supply of  
cash is both fierce and un-  
relenting. A jungle warfare  
that challenges the imagination  
..ranging from clever schemes to  
outright bribery. One of its

COCHRAN: (Cont'd)

most cynical techniques is the  
use it makes of a unique American  
institution. The teen age fan  
club. Used here for only one  
reason. To exploit ... its un-  
suspecting victims.

DISSOLVE TO:

(EXT. TEENAGE GIRLS OUTSIDE A STAGE  
DOOR..SURROUNDING A SINGING IDOL  
FOR AUTOGRAPHS)

COCHRAN: (VO)

In just a few moments ..

SUPER 35mm INSTITUTIONAL

FILM

..on the ARMSTRONG CIRCLE  
THEATRE.

FADE IN:

(A TV STUDIO. WILLIE  
IS SINGING. HE IS  
STIFF AND AWKWARD IN  
HIS STYLE BUT HE IS  
HEART AND SOUL IN  
WHAT HE IS DOING ..  
REALLY FEELING IT)

COCHRAN: (VO)

To reach the golden jackpot  
of a million sale record..  
two elements are needed.

The first is simple.

A singer.

Preferably..a teenager him-  
self. With built in appeal  
to those of his own genera-  
tion. His style can be  
taught. Polished with machine  
like precision.

DISSOLVE TO:

(FILM. STOCK. A  
RECORD HOP..WITH  
TEENAGERS DANCING)

The second element is not  
so simple.

An audience.

The mass of individuals..  
whom the singer must unite  
in a common devotion.

If he is successful in becoming  
a teen age idol.....he may earn  
as much as a million dollars.

SUPER CRAWL

ACT ONEDISSOLVE TO:

(BEN'S APARTMENT. WILLIE IS SING-  
ING. HE IS SEVENTEEN...AND APPEAL-  
ING. BEN CLAYTON IS 35..VIGOROUS  
AND BRIGHT. ADA O'DOHERTY IS IN  
HER LATE TWENTIES. SHE IS NO GLAMOUR  
GIRL BUT SHE HAS AN ATTRACTIVENESS  
WHICH COMES FROM HER WARMTH AND KNOW-  
HOW. ALSO PRESENT IS DAVE..THE AC-  
COMPANIST. BEN IS LISTENING EAGERLY  
WHILE ADA LISTENS IMPASSIVELY. DAVE'S  
EXPRESSION DOESN'T SEEM TO INDICATE  
THAT HE IS TOO HAPPY)

(WILLIE SINGS SEVERAL BARS..THEN  
BEN TURNS TO DAVE)

BEN:

What do you think?

DAVE:

He can't sing.

BEN:

Give me an honest answer.

DAVE:

I just did. He's got no talent  
..for singing anyway.

(BEN MOVES OVER TO ADA)

BEN:

You like him?

ADA:

I'm trying hard.

(SHE LISTENS FOR A FEW MORE BARS  
THEN TURNS TO BEN)

He needs a certain kind of arrangement. To drown him out.

(BEN TURNS AWAY..IRRITATED...IMPATIENT AND WILLIE CONTINUES TO SING UNDER NARRATION)

COCHRAN: (VO)

(CAMERA PANS THE  
PEOPLE)

These .. are the idol makers.

Or so they hope.

Ready to begin the long, laborious act of creation.  
Ben Clayton..age...thirty-five.

Occupation..talent manager.  
Ada O'Doherty...music arranger.

Age..difficult to assess.

Dave Taylor...voice coach.

A man long used to the impossibilities of show business.

Such as the coming attempt to make a teen age singing idol

of Willie Carlisle who..until

a short time ago...was a talented mechanic in a South Philadelphia garage.

(WILLIE SINGS A FEW MORE BARS..AND  
ENDS THE SONG)

(HE LOOKS AT THEM EXPECTANTLY)

WILLIE:

How was that, Mr. Clayton?

BEN:

Fine, Willie, fine. We're go-  
ing to be all right together.

(ADA AND DAVE ARE IMPASSIVE)

WILLIE:

(TO ADA)

Didn't you like it?

ADA:

I didn't like the arrangement.

DAVE:

Nothing personal, son. But this  
is a hard business. A million  
kids come to New York from all  
over the country trying to break  
into..

BEN:

(INTERRUPTING)

Sure, Dave..we know. Willie, why  
don't you go in and rest..play the  
radio a little. We have to talk  
some business.

WILLIE:

I told you I wanted to sing my own



WILLIE: (Cont'd)

songs, man. I don't dig that  
number. I don't feel it. My  
heart wasn't in it.

(BEN HAS THE BEDROOM DOOR OPEN)

BEN:

Don't worry, we're not worried  
about your voice. You can sing  
well enough.

(HE GUIDES WILLIE INTO THE NEXT  
ROOM AND COMES OUT..CLOSING THE  
DOOR)

WILLIE:

The beat's all wrong. I have  
to go with my own.

BEN:

Turn on the radio, Willie.

(HE CLOSES THE DOOR)

ADA:

He's a sweet kid. What are  
you doing?

BEN:

Now you've got it. That's what  
I wanted to hear. (TO DAVE) Never  
mind he can't sing. You'll teach  
him. Besides...we'll make a voice  
for him in the studio. (TO ADA)  
Sweet kid...that's the whole thing

BEN: (Cont'd)

about him. His face. You look  
at him..you like him. How do  
you think I found him?

ADA:

I was wondering.

BEN:

He's a natural. He comes from  
South Philadelphia. Same as  
Fabian, Frankie Avalon, Chubby  
Checker..Bobby Rydell. They  
breed them there.

DAVE:

You think it's catching?

ADA:

Sure. Marian Anderson comes  
from there too.

BEN:

That can't hurt either. Look,  
I know how it sounds but there's  
something about that place. May-  
be it's in the air..I don't know.  
But the kids there dig the rock  
and that's all I'm interested in.

DAVE:

I don't know where you saw him,  
Ben.....but he's not even good  
for a Saturday night party.